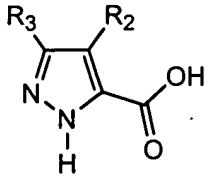
In the Claims

Please amend the claims according to the claim listing provided below.

1. (original) A compound of Formula (**Ia**):



(Ia)

wherein:

R_2 is H, halogen, C_{1-12} alkyl or C_{1-12} haloalkyl; and

R_3 is C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{1-12} haloalkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}-alkylene, aryl-C_{1-4}-alkylene or heteroaryl-C_{1-4}-alkylene, wherein said aryl-C_{1-4}-alkylene and heteroaryl-C_{1-4}-alkylene can be optionally substituted with 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-4} acyl, C_{1-4} acyloxy, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylcarboxamide, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonamide, C_{1-4} alkylsulfinyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-4} alkylthio, C_{1-4} alkylureyl, amino, C_{1-4} alkylamino, C_{1-4} dialkylamino, arylsulfonyl, carbo-C_{1-4}-alkoxy, carboxamide, carboxy, cyano, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, C_{1-4} dialkylcarboxamide, C_{1-4} dialkylsulfonamide, halogen, C_{1-4} haloalkoxy, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkylsulfinyl, C_{1-4} haloalkylsulfonyl, C_{1-4} haloalkylthio, heterocyclyl, hydroxyl, thio, nitro, C_{4-6} oxo-cycloalkyl, sulfonamide and sulfonic acid; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or hydrate thereof;

provided that:

A) if R_2 is H, then R_3 is not CF_3, *n*-propyl, *iso*-butyl, *n*-butyl, *iso*-propyl, *t*-butyl, methyl, ethyl, *n*-pentyl, *n*-hexyl, *n*-heptyl, *n*-nonyl, *n*-undecyl, *n*-dodecyl, cyclopentyl, benzyl, 4-methyl-benzyl, 4-chloro-benzyl, 4-methoxy-benzyl, 3-chloro-benzyl, phenethyl, or 3-phenyl-propyl;

B) if R_2 is Cl, then R_3 is not *iso*-butyl, ethyl, or CH_3;

C) if R_2 is Br, then R_3 is not *iso*-butyl, *t*-butyl, or CH_3;

D) if R_2 is I, then R_3 is not CH_3;

E) if R_2 is CH_3, then R_3 is not CH_3; and

F) if R_2 is CF_3, then R_3 is not CF_3.

2. (original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R_2 is H.

3. (original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R_2 is halogen.

4. (original) A compound according to claim 3 wherein R_2 is F.

5. (original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R_2 is C_{1-12} alkyl.

6. (original) A compound according to claim 5 wherein R_2 is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_3$, $-CH_2CH_3$, $-(CH_2)_2CH_3$, $-(CH_2)_3CH_3$, $-(CH_2)_4CH_3$, and $-(CH_2)_5CH_3$.

7. (cancelled)

8. (original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R_2 is C_{1-12} haloalkyl.

9. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 8 wherein R_2 is the haloalkyl selected from the group consisting of $-CHF_2$, $-CH_2F$, $-CF_3$, $-CF_2CF_3$, $-CH_2CF_3$, $-CH_2CHF_2$, $-CH_2CH_2F$, $-CHFCF_3$, $-CHFCHF_2$, $-CHFCH_2F$, $-CF_2CHF_2$, and $-CF_2CH_2F$.

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1 wherein R_3 is C_{1-12} alkyl.

13. (original) A compound according to claim 12 wherein R_3 is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_3$, $-CH_2CH_3$, $-(CH_2)_2CH_3$, $-(CH_2)_3CH_3$, $-(CH_2)_4CH_3$, $-(CH_2)_5CH_3$, $-(CH_2)_6CH_3$, $-(CH_2)_7CH_3$, $-(CH_2)_8CH_3$, $-(CH_2)_9CH_3$, $-(CH_2)_{10}CH_3$, and $-(CH_2)_{11}CH_3$.

14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1 wherein R_3 is C_{1-12} haloalkyl.

16. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 15 wherein R_3 is C_{1-12} haloalkyl selected from the group consisting of $-CF_3$, $-CF_2CF_3$, $-(CF_2)_2CF_3$, $-CHF_2$, $-CH_2F$, $-CH_2CF_3$, $-CH_2CHF_2$, $-CF_2CH_3$, $-CH_2CH_2CF_3$, $-CH_2CF_2CH_3$, $-CH_2CF_2CF_3$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2CHF_2$, and $-CH_2CH_2CF_2CH_3$.

17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1 wherein R_3 is C_{3-6} cycloalkyl.

19. (original) A compound according to claim 18 wherein R_3 is cyclopropyl.

20. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1 wherein R_3 is C_{3-6} cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}-alkylene optionally substituted with 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-4} alkylthio, carboxamide, carboxy, cyano, halogen, C_{1-4} haloalkoxy, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkylsulfonyl, C_{1-4} haloalkylthio, hydroxyl, thio, nitro, and sulfonamide.

21. (cancelled)

22. (original) A compound according to claim 20 wherein said C_{3-6} cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}-alkylene is cyclopropylmethyl.

23. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1 wherein R_3 is aryl-C_{1-4}-alkylene optionally substituted with 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-4} alkylthio, carboxamide, carboxy, cyano, halogen, C_{1-4} haloalkoxy, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkylsulfonyl, C_{1-4} haloalkylthio, hydroxyl, thio, nitro, and sulfonamide.

24. (original) A compound according to claim 23 wherein said aryl-C_{1-4}-alkylene is selected from the group consisting of benzyl, phenethyl, 1-phenyl-ethyl, 3-phenyl-propyl, 2-phenyl-propyl, 1-phenyl-propyl, 1-phenyl-1-methyl-ethyl, 2-phenyl-1-methyl-ethyl, and 2-phenyl-propyl.

25. (cancelled)

26. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1 wherein R_3 is heteroaryl-C_{1-4}-alkylene optionally substituted with 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-4} alkylthio, carboxamide, carboxy, cyano, halogen, C_{1-4} haloalkoxy, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkylsulfonyl, C_{1-4} haloalkylthio, hydroxyl, thio, nitro, and sulfonamide.

27. (original) A compound according to claim 26 wherein said heteroaryl-C_{1-4}-alkylene is selected from the group consisting of thiophen-2-yl-methyl, thiophen-3-yl-methyl, pyrrol-1-yl-methyl, pyrrol-2-yl-methyl, pyrrol-3-yl-methyl, furan-2-yl-methyl, furan-3-yl-methyl, 2-thiophen-2-yl-ethyl, 2-thiophen-3-yl-ethyl, 2-furan-2-yl-ethyl, 2-furan-3-yl-ethyl, 2-pyrrol-1-yl-ethyl, 2-pyrrol-2-yl-ethyl, and 2-pyrrol-3-yl-ethyl.

28. (cancelled)

29. (original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

5-Difluoromethyl-*2H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;
5-(2,2-Difluoro-ethyl)-*2H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;
5-(1,1-Difluoro-ethyl)-*2H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;
5-(2,2,-Difluoro-propyl)-*2H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;
5-(4,4-Difluoro-butyl)-*2H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;
5-(3,3-Difluoro-butyl)-*2H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;
5-Cyclopropyl-*2H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;
5-Cyclopropylmethyl-*2H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;
4-Fluoro-5-methyl-*2H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;
5-Difluoromethyl-4-fluoro-*2H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;

5-(2,2-Difluoro-ethyl)-4-fluoro-*2H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;

5-(1,1-Difluoro-ethyl)-4-fluoro-*2H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;

5-(2,2-Difluoro-propyl)-4-fluoro-*2H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;

5-Ethyl-4-fluoro-2*H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;

4-Fluoro-5-propyl-2*H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;

5-Butyl-4-fluoro-2*H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;

4-Fluoro-5-pentyl-2*H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;

4-Fluoro-5-hexyl-2*H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;

4-Fluoro-5-heptyl-2*H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;

4-Fluoro-5-octyl-2*H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;

4-Fluoro-5-nonyl-2*H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;

5-Decyl-4-fluoro-2*H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;

4-Fluoro-5-undecyl-2*H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;

5-Dodecyl-4-fluoro-2*H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;

5-Cyclopropyl-4-fluoro-2*H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;

5-Cyclopropylmethyl-4-fluoro-2*H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;

5-(3-Fluoro-benzyl)-2H-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;

5-(3-Bromo-benzyl)-2H-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid;

5-(4-Bromo-benzyl)-2H-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid; and

5-[2-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-2H-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid.

30. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according ~~to any one of claims 1 to 29~~ to claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

31. (cancelled)

32. (cancelled)

33. (cancelled)

34. (cancelled)

35. (cancelled)

36. (cancelled)

37. (currently amended) A method of treatment of a metabolic-related disorder comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound according ~~to any one of claims 1 to 29~~ to claim 1.

38. (original) A method according to claim 37 wherein said metabolic-related disorder is selected from the group consisting of dyslipidemia, atherosclerosis, coronary heart disease, insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes.

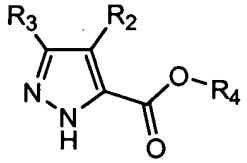
39. (original) A method according to claim 37 wherein said metabolic-related disorder is atherosclerosis.

40. (cancelled)

41. (cancelled)

42. (cancelled)

43. (new) A compound according to claim 1 having Formula (**II**):



(II)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or hydrate thereof;

wherein:

R_2 is F;

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of cyclopropyl, cyclopropylmethyl, 2-cyclopropyl-ethyl, $-CH_3$, $-CH_2CH_3$, $-(CH_2)_2CH_3$, $-(CH_2)_3CH_3$, $-CHF_2$, $-CH_2F$, $-CH_2CF_3$, $-CF_3$, $-CH_2CHF_2$, $-CF_2CF_3$, $-CF_2CH_3$, $-CH_2CH_2CF_3$, $-CH_2CF_2CH_3$, $-CH_2CF_2CF_3$, $-(CF_2)_2CF_3$. $-CH_2CH_2CH_2CHF_2$, and $-CH_2CH_2CF_2CH_3$; and

R_4 is selected from the group consisting of H, $-CH_3$, $-CH_2CH_3$, $-(CH_2)_2CH_3$, $-(CH_2)_3CH_3$, $-(CH_2)_4CH_3$, $-(CH_2)_5CH_3$, and $-(CH_2)_6CH_3$.

44. (new) A method of raising HDL in an individual comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

45. (new) A method of lowering LDL in an individual comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.